



Buzzwords ...

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..... the newsletter for National Beekeepers' Association members

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- * **Drought relief - at last**
- * **Exec responsibilities**
- * **Ruakura's latest results**
- * **Honey that glows in the dark ...**

Buzzwords No 13 October 1989



"You wanted to know about my deductions for veils?"

SOUTH ISLAND DROUGHT RELIEF

Drought relief is now available for some South Island beekeepers. The details of this scheme have taken a long time to be finalised, which has been very frustrating for those affected.

There are five kinds of assistance available to beekeepers

- * **Drought rehabilitation consultancies** - The Government will fund work by qualified consultants to help beekeepers plan their recovery from the effects of drought. Up to \$600 is available, or \$1200 for people considering a New Start Grant. Details from New Zealand Rural Trust Co-ordinators or MAF.

- * **Family income support** - This is to assist families maintain a basic standard of living, and is not designed to support the business. Details from MAF, Social Welfare or the Rural Trust.
- * **New start grant** - Up to \$45,000 can be paid to assist beekeepers leaving the industry. They will be available only until 4 November 1989. Details from Rural Trust Co-ordinators.
- * **Income equalisation** - There can be provision for early withdrawals from this fund. Details from your accountant, IRD or MAF.
- * **Drought rehabilitation loans** - Application forms are available from MAF offices.

NBA Executive and MAF

EXEC ALLOCATES RESPONSIBILITIES

At the September meeting the national executive areas of responsibility and sub-committee memberships were allocated. This list shows executive members with special responsibilities as well as other beekeepers and MAF personnel who assist (shown in brackets).

When you have a particular enquiry or problem you wish to put before your executive, contact the appropriate person first to speed action or get current information.

Finance and Administration, Management Support Officer

Exec Sec/All Exec members

Trust Fund and Trustees

President/All Exec members

Industry Planning and Industry Conference

President/All Exec members

Research:

Ruakura Research and Advisory Committee

Nick Wallingford, Gerard Martin, (Murray Reid), (Tony Lorimer)

Invermay Research and Advisory Committee

Allen McCaw, Keith Herron

DSIR Pathology, Mt Albert

Allen McCaw, (Murray Reid)

CSIRO, Australia

Allen McCaw, Nick Wallingford, (Murray Reid)

Apicultural Research Advisory Committee

Nick Wallingford, Allen McCaw, (Ted Roberts)

Education:

BOP Polytechnic

Nick Wallingford, Gerard Martin

Telford

Keith Herron, Allen McCaw

Marketing:

Research Committee

Exec Secy, Dudley Ward, Keith Herron, (Peter Bray), (Co-op rep)

Promotions Committee

Gavin White, Dudley Ward, (Ian Berry)

Publications and Public Relations -

Buzzwords

Allen McCaw, Nick Wallingford, (Andrew Matheson)

Beckeeper

Gerard Martin, Allen McCaw, (Ted Roberts)

Other items (Profile, brochure, etc)

Nick Wallingford, Gavin White, (Andrew Matheson)

Pesticides Board

(Ian Berry), Dudley Ward

Federated Farmers, Combined Land User Organisation -

Gavin White, Gerard Martin

Library Committee

Keith Herron, Allen McCaw, (John Heineman - Librarian)

Apiary Advisory Committee

Gerard Martin, (Tony Lorimer), (Mike Stuckey), (Murray Reid)

Queen Quality Contest Committee

Gavin White, (Reg Clarke), (Terry Gavin), (John Dobson)

Branch matters

Nearest Exec member for action and/or recommendation

Specialty groups:

Queen Bee Producers Association

Gavin White, (Derek Bettsworth)

Pollination Association

Nick Wallingford, Gavin White, (Russell Berry)

Packers Association

Keith Herron, Dudley Ward, Gavin White, (Peter Bray)

Exporters (IHEO)

Dudley Ward, Keith Herron, (John Hartnell)

LATEST RESEARCH FROM RUAKURA

Ruakura's apicultural research unit (Mark Goodwin and Anton Ten Houten) have recently put out their report on last year's research.

Further work into the best way of feeding sugar syrup to kiwifruit pollination hives has shown that the best results are achieved if colonies are fed daily. Increases in pollen collection are obtained if feedings are spread further apart, as long as the volume of syrup given at each feed is increased. Feeding 1 litre each day gives the best results, feeding 2 litres every two days not quite as good, and feeding 3 litres every three days even less effective. However feeding 3 litres every three days still produces acceptable results and may be the most useful compromise between effectiveness and practicality.



The type of feeder should give access to large numbers of bees at the same time. Although they may be effective, feeders that work on a drip feed principle have not been tested and so should be avoided at this stage. Both white sugar and industrial raw sugar have the same effect in increasing kiwifruit pollen collection. However, raw sugar is more likely to create robbing problems than white sugar.

The concentration of sugar syrup should be around 50% by weight. Timing of feeding is not as critical as once was thought. The best results are achieved if the syrup is fed in the morning, although early evening feeding is still effective. Feeding in the evening has the advantage that it reduces the possibility of robbing.

Recommendations on when to introduce hives have changed a little over the last few years. It appears that delaying the first hive until 20% or so of female flowering may be resulting in fruit loss. Although this area requires more study, it seems that first introduction should be made earlier than has been done in the past - probably when the first flowers appear.

For two years the Ruakura team have looked at the cost benefit of feeding fumagillin to treat nosema disease. Six apiaries were used, each consisting of 20 hives. At each site one group was fed syrup medicated with Fumidil-B while the other group acted as a control and was fed only sugar syrup. Treatments were administered in autumn and in spring.

In 1988 treated colonies collected 6.6 kg more honey than the controls, but in the poor season in 1989 the difference was only 4.4 kg. These differences were 13.9% in 1987/88, and 23.2% in 1988/89. Although the differences are not statistically significant, there is a strong indication that the difference in the amount of honey collected by the control and treated colonies was a real difference. For a cost of \$73 for the fumagillin, in 1988 the extra 4.4 kg of honey returned \$7.92 (at \$1.80/kg).

Further study may throw more light on the subject, but the economics of feeding fumagillin to honey production hives do look promising.

Other Ruakura projects are: monitoring the effectiveness of the wasp parasite, finding a repellent to add to 1080 possum bait, an examination of the supersedure rates of New Zealand queen bees, nashi pollination, and the feasibility of freighting package bees to Canada by sea.

MAF apiculture unit

MORE RESEARCH IS POSSIBLE

A lot of research benefiting the Australian beekeeping industry is funded by the Honey Research Council. It has an annual income of \$A280,000, funded by a levy on honey sales of 0.045 cents per kilogram (45 cents per tonne) and a 1:1 subsidy from the federal government.

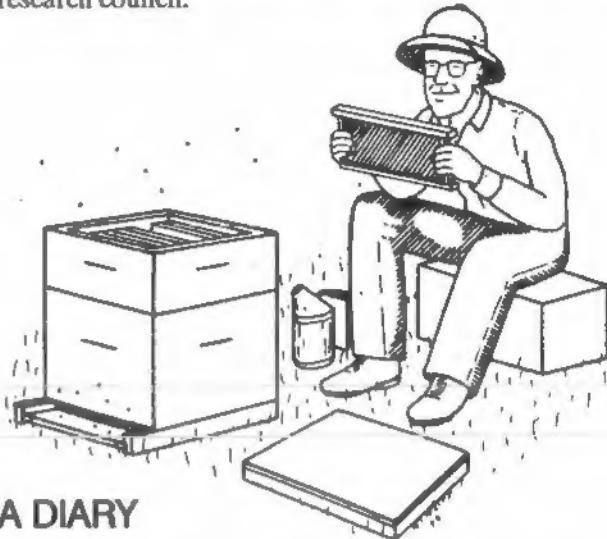
Of the income \$200,000 per year is spent on research and the remainder is used for levy collection expenses, secretarial fees, cost of selecting applicants and council meeting expenses.

Meanwhile here at home, the NBA executive are currently appointing an advisory committee to help them coordinate and promote beekeeping research in New Zealand. This committee was going to be called the Beekeeping Industry Research Committee, but we felt that the initials "BIRC" might not be the best for the professional image being sought. The most likely name now is the Apicultural Research and Advisory Council (ARAC).

The committee will probably consist of five or six members who have an interest in and strong commitment to beekeeping research. An initial meeting was held at the NBA conference in Dunedin, and the role and composition of the council discussed fully. It was agreed the committee should help the executive develop the NBA's research policies, as well

as promote apicultural research in Government departments, universities and private facilities.

Some lobbying to obtain more financial support from all available sources is also anticipated. Wouldn't it be a major step forward if the \$60,000 or so provided annually from trust funds to research could be matched by a 1:1 subsidy from our Government, just as the Aussies enjoy. No doubt the Australian Honey Research Council is a major factor there, and we aim to achieve similar support here with our own research council.



NBA DIARY

It's high noon for Marlborough beekeepers, on Sunday 15 October at Bankhouse Station on the West Coast road. James Jenkins is hosting a field day with the latest ideas on spring build up.

Volunteers are needed for the display at the A & P show on 3-4 November. Contact Phil Norton.

Nelson branch are organising the "Buzz-in" weekend at St Arnaud, for 16-18 February 1990. This is for beekeepers in the Top of the South or Bottom of the North, plus any passing apiarists who want a fun weekend in a superb location.

Canterbury branch now has a flash-looking newsletter, courtesy of Peter Bray and some electronic wizardry.

The Waikato branch has just enjoyed their annual social - drinkies, eaties and a talk with slides on "A traveller's guide to buying beer in Iran", Andrew Matheson reporting on his recent trip there.

Hawkes Bay branch are having their inspection day on Saturday 4 November. For details phone Richard Wimsett at MAF (87 125) or John Dobson (60 962).

COMPUTER JARGON

VDU	A diseased sheep
external sort	mistress
exchange sort	end of the affair
bit string	abbreviated jock strap
debug	de ting killed wid de shoe
core	strewth
remote VDU	diseased sheep on the West Coast
microfiche	plankton

FOOD FAIRS

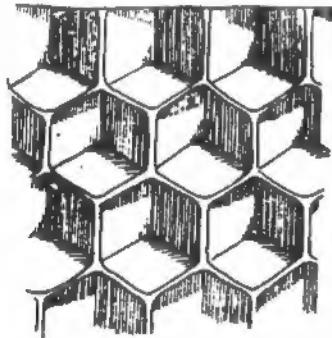
ANUGA sounds like a new kind of confectionery, but in fact is a food fair that's being held in Cologne, Germany, this month.

Airborne Honey has exhibited at ANUGA since 1987, but for the first time this year it is being represented personally by Peter and Veronica Bray. Over 227 000 trade visitors will be at the fair this year, being held from 14-19 October.

Foodzeal 90 is an approved project of the 1990 commission, and is predicted to be the biggest food and beverage event ever held in New Zealand.

Foodzeal 90 is actually a series of events that will take place in this commemoration year. The main events will be in Auckland from 15-22 May 1990 -this includes a food fair for exporters to display their products to local and international buyers, a competition for chefs, and a symposium called Food Features.

At the moment the organisers are seeking sponsors for these events, which might interest you if you have up to \$500,000 lying around looking for a use. In the meantime if you think you'd like to exhibit at the fair, keep the dates free. Further information from Foodzeal and Displays Ltd, PO Box 37591, Parnell, Auckland. Phone (09) 399 219, fax (09) 394 999.



SWARM LIST

Now is the time of year that MAF officers get besieged by callers with swarms arriving in their back yards. You can help, if you're interested in collecting swarms, by leaving your name and telephone number with the operator at your nearest MAF office. Don't forget to provide this information to the Police and local council offices as well.

NUCLEAR FREE HONEY

We're all aware that New Zealand's clean green image is part of what helps sell our honey. However, we may not realise just how other beekeepers are actually facing problems with nuclear contamination.

A recent letter from a beekeeper in Holland says that radioactivity in ling heather honey is still a problem, three years after the Chernobyl disaster of 1986. For some reason ling heather is still contaminated with radioactive Caesium

134 and 137. In some cases the honey contains up to 1450 becquerels to a kilogram, whereas the maximum legal limit is 600 becquerels per kilogram.

The beekeepers in Holland still have to live with this problem for some time, because ling is an important nectar source for their late summer (August-September). No wonder buyers are searching for nuclear free honey, and organic honey at that.

THE BITTER PRICE OF SUGAR SUBSIDIES

All around the world, politicians and industrialists are firing up a campaign to reduce government backing for the American sugar industry, which costs US consumers about \$NZ5.1 billion each year.

At a time when nations are squabbling ceaselessly about ending unfair trade practices, the world sugar industry stands out as a dinosaur of protectionism.

In a recent issue of Buzzwords we looked at the honey subsidy system in the US. Now it appears that the sugar industry is just as regulated and controlled.

US tax payers coughed up \$NZ144 million in 1985 when sugar producers defaulted on federal loans rather than accept low prices brought on by a surge in imports. (Sounds familiar doesn't it?). What happens is that the government props up the price of sugar in the US, which stimulates more production within the country. Couple this with tight import quotas and you have a very cosy situation for local producers.

This angers many sugar-producing nations. Between 1983 and 1987 reduced imports to the US have cost sugar-growing countries more than \$NZ1.1 billion.

At recent GATT talks in Geneva the world trade body has decreed that this US programme of import quotas violates international rules. However nothing has been done so far to amend the support programme. US growers are still receiving more than 23c/pound on the local market, whereas the world market is around about 12c.

BUZZWORDS IS ...

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The views expressed in *Buzzwords* are not necessarily those of the National Beekeepers' Association nor of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.